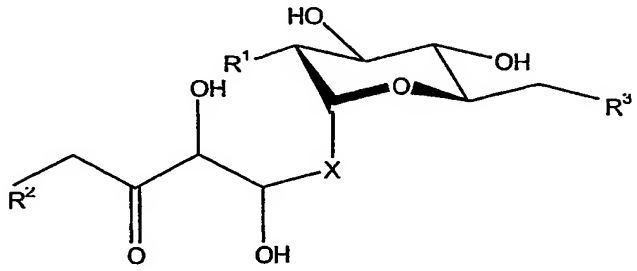
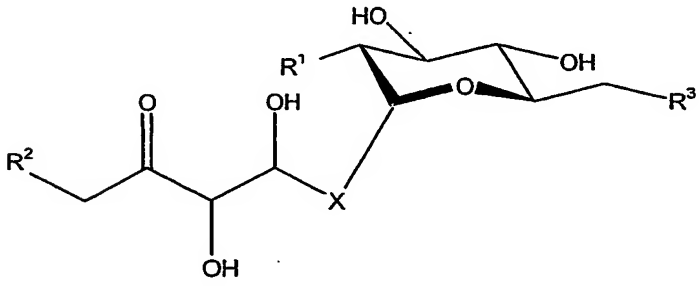
CLAIMS

1. Compounds having affinity to and/or selectivity for P-selectin, represented by the following formula Ia:



and their stereo-isomers, represented by the following formula Ib:



wherein:

X is an optional group, which represents -O-, -OCH_2-, -S-, -SCH_2-, -NH- or -$NHCH_2$-;

R^1 represents QR^4, wherein Q represents -O-, -NH-, -NH-(C=O)-, -O-(C=O), -NH-(C=O)-O- or -NH-(C=O)-NH-; and wherein R^4 represents H or any compound comprising at least one carbon atom;

R^2 is a moiety bearing at least one negative charge and

R^3 can be any group,

provided that if Q = -O- and R^4 is -H-, X is present.

2. The compounds according to claim 1, wherein X is not present or represents -O-.

3. The compounds according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein Q represents -NH-(C=O)-.

4. The compounds according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein R^2 is or comprises a phosphate group.

5. The compounds according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein R^3 represents OH or YR^5, wherein Y is -O-, -CH_2- or -NH- and R^5 comprises at least one carbon atom.

6. The compounds according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein R^4 comprises H, an alkyl moiety, an aromatic moiety or a group comprising an electron withdrawing moiety.

7. The compounds according to claim 6, wherein R^4 is a phenyl or a naphthalene group.

8. The compounds according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein R^3 comprises an anchor moiety capable of anchoring the compound to a colloidal or microparticulate drug carrier.

9. The compounds according to claim 8, wherein the anchor moiety is a peptide or peptidomimetic moiety having affinity to P-selectin.

10. The compounds according to any one of claims 1-7 as a diagnostic agent or a medicament.

11. The compounds according to any one of claims 1-7 as an antagoniser for P-selectin.

12. Use of the compounds according to any one of claims 1-7 in the manufacture of a medicament for the diagnosis, prevention or inhibition of a disease or condition involving the activation or overexpression of P-selectin.

13. Use of the compounds according to any one of claims 1-7 as a targeting agent to deliver a pharmaceutically active compound to a cell or to tissue expressing P-selectin.

14. Pharmaceutical composition, comprising in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier a compound according to any one of claims 1-7, or a derivative, salt, conjugate, solvate, or multimer thereof.

15. A method for determining whether a compound is capable of binding to P-selectin or a functional equivalent of P-selectin, comprising contacting and incubating the compound to be tested and a predetermined amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1-7 with a predetermined amount of P-selectin or said functional equivalent of P-selectin and subsequently determining the amount of compound according to any one of claims 1-7.